GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4215
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009
IMPORTS OF DRUGS
Singh Shri Uday Pratap

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Erythromycin Thiocyanate is imported as a Drug intermediate into India for manufacturing of Drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage of imported material used as a drug/drug intermediate;

(c) whether as per Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) notification, a hindrance is caused in export of Erythromycin salts as reported by Pharmexcil Export Promotion Council;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the total quantity of imported Erythromycin Thiocyanate used to convert into drug for export and domestic market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Erythromycin Thiocyanate is imported as a drug as well as drug intermediate into India.

(b) Office of Drugs Controller General India has granted permissions for import of 48,000 Kgs. of Erythromycin Thiocyanate as a drug intermediate in 2008-2009 and 17,64,130 Kgs. of Erythromycin Thiocyanate was imported into India as a drug from 2007-2009.

(c) & (d) Reference has been received from Pharmexcil Export Promotion Council that Erythromycin Salts have lot of export potential and import of Erythromycin Thiocyanate may be considered as a drug intermediate and to exempt it from the registration requirements under Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

In this regard, Office of Drug Controller has clarified that registration of Erythromycin Thiocyanate is required as per Drugs and Cosmetic Rules. Since Erythromycin Thiocyanate is a dual use item i.e used as a veterinary drug and also used as a drug intermediate for manufacture of other drugs like Erythromycin Stearate etc., a no objection certificate is required for import of Erythromycin Thiocyanate to be used as a drug intermediate which is given to Actual Users.

(e) No such information is maintained by O/o Drugs Controller General India.